

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 093327

12

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00

/057 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/RA:DMORRISON

EB/CSB:JNESVIG (SUBS)

COMMERCE/CAGNE:PHALE (INFO)

L/NEA:JROHWER (SUBS)

----- 119307

P R 162359Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 093327

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652' N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: AL-GHOSAIBI REMARKS ON ARAB BOYCOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 093327

REF: DAMASCUS 3166 (8/18/75)

1. DURING RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, SAUDI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ELECTRICITY GHAZI AL-GHOSAIBI HAD DISCUSSION IN DEPARTMENT ON ARAB BOYCOTT, AT AL-GHOSAIBI'S REQUEST. HE REITERATED CONCERN THAT U.S. PRESSURE ON THE BOYCOTT COULD THREATEN WELL ESTABLISHED AND INCREASING ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT SAG COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED INTO GIVING UP THE BOYCOTT, IN WHICH IT WAS BOUND WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER, WHO LED DISCUSSION ON U.S. SIDE, SOUGHT TO INSURE THAT AL-GHOSAIBI LEFT WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE, LEGAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH USG DEALS WITH THE BOYCOTT. SOBER UNDERLINED ALSO OUR FUNDAMENTAL DEEP DESIRE NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN BUT TO STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA (AND OTHER MID-EAST STATES), WHICH WE SEE AS FORMING AN IMPORTANT AND INTEGRAL PART OF OUR OVERALL EFFORT TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE

IN THE REGION AND TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM IN PEACEMAKING EFFORT. HE WELCOMED SAUDI REITERATION THAT QUESTIONS OF RELIGION PLAY NO ROLE IN ARAB ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOYCOTT. IT WAS AGREED THAT, WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF RESPECTIVE LAWS AND POLICIES, BOTH SIDES SHOULD WORK TO INSURE THAT BOYCOTT PROBLEMS DO NOT JEOPARDIZE PROMOTION OF BROADER INTERESTS TO WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES ARE COMMITTED.

2. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE PRESS HERE, AL-GHOSAIBI WAS QUOTED IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR OF APRIL 14 AS FOLLOWS: "IF A COMPANY IS WILLING TO DO IN THE ARAB WORLD EXACTLY WHAT IT DOES IN ISRAEL, IT CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE ARAB BOYCOTT LIST". THE ARTICLE WAS HEADLINED "SAUDIS MODIFYING TRADE BOYCOTT?". ARTICLE WENT ON TO SPECULATE THAT AL-GHOSAIBI STATEMENT BROKE FRESH GROUND IN AN EFFORT TO DEFUSE ARAB BOYCOTT ISSUE.

3. SOBER SUBSEQUENTLY SPOKE TO AL-GHOSAIBI WHO CONFIRMED THE QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN MONITOR ARTICLE. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 093327

INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS STATEMENT DID NOT BREAK FRESH GROUND. HE ALSO WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT THIS POLICY WAS NOT LIMITED TO SAUDI ARABIA BUT EXTENDED AS WELL TO THE OTHER STATES APPLYING THE BOYCOTT.

4. AL-GHOSAIBI'S STATEMENTS RESEMBLE LANGUAGE OF SYRIAN DECREE OF JULY 19, 1975 (REPORTED REFTTEL), WHICH STATES THAT SEVERING OF TIES WITH ISRAEL IS NOT PRECONDITION TO

REMOVAL FROM BLACKLIST AS LONG AS COMPANY MAKES SIMILAR OR EQUAL INVESTMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES. IT HAS NOT BEEN CLEAR TO US THAT THIS POSITION WAS, IN FACT, GENERALLY SHARED BY THE ARAB STATES. NOR DO WE KNOW OF ANY SPECIFIC CASE IN WHICH THE PRINCIPLE OF BALANCE IN DEALINGS WITH ARABS AND ISRAEL HAS BEEN ACTED UPON TO REMOVE A COMPANY FROM THE BLACKLIST.

5. FOR JIDDA: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON AL-GHOSAIBI'S STATEMENTS. SPECIFICALLY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THEM TO REFLECT ACTUAL SAG POLICY?

6. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME COMMENT ON EXTENT TO WHICH PRINCIPLE ENUNCIATED BY AL-GHOSAIBI IS REFLECTED IN ACTUAL BOYCOTT POLICY IN OTHER ARAB STATES.

ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, BOYCOTTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE093327
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SSOBER:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760146-0405
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760451/aaaabrmk.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 3166
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AL-GHOSAIBI REMARKS ON ARAB BOYCOTT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SA, (AL-GHOSAIBI, GHAZI)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006